



National Fire Plan

Managing the Impact of Wildfires on the Communities and the Environment



FY 2002 Programs in Virginia



In August 2000, the President directed the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior to develop a plan to respond to severe wildland fires, reduce their impacts on rural communities, and assure sufficient firefighting capacity in the future. The National Fire Plan (NFP) was developed and addresses 5 key points:

- Firefighting;
- Rehabilitation and Restoration;
- Hazardous Fuel Reduction;
- Community Assistance; and,
- Accountability.

The USDA Forest Service and Department of the Interior are in the second year of implementing the National Fire Plan, with allocations to Virginia estimated at:

USDA Forest Service Allocations for FY 2002

Firefighting		Rehab and Restoration	Hazard Fuel Treatment	Research R&D JFSP	Forest Health Projects	Community Assistance			Total
Preparedness	Facilities					State Fire Assist	Volunteer Fire Assist	Economic Action Programs	
3,075,510	0	0	320,000	0	295,000	1,528,821	194,831	22,285	5,436,448

*Allocations for FY 2001 and 2002 may vary slightly over time due to adjustments in accounting systems.

Department of the Interior Allocations for FY 2002

Firefighting		Rehab and Restoration	Hazard Fuel Treatment	Research JFSP	Community Assistance Rural Fire Assist	Total
Preparedness	Facilities					
1,214,000	721,945,500	50,000	306,000	0	0	2,291,945

Program Highlights

- Augusta Hotshots - The Augusta Hotshot crew, a 20-person Type 1 National Resource, was hired in June of 2001 and was made available for assignment on July 30, 2001. Led by seasoned veterans, this crew stepped into a busy fire season

with outstanding performance. From July 31 until December 1, the crew was away on assignments a total of 83 days. They made 4 trips to Montana, 1 trip to California, 1 trip to New York, 1 trip to West Virginia, and 2 trips to southwest Virginia, in addition to local wildfires. They were on a total of 27 fires. After the terrorists attack on September 11, they were in New York City assisting crews at ground zero. As the closest Type 1 Hotshot crew too much of the northeast, the Augusta Hotshots were able to be quickly deployed during that critical need. The crew also spent 10 days working on line construction in preparation for prescribed burning and completed five fire courses during the short time they were at their home base. The crew is scheduled off the months of December, January, June and July.

- Zone Fire Management - During 2001, the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests began their transition to Zone Fire Management areas. The ten districts (formerly 12 districts) were aligned into five fire management zones. Fire management leadership within those zones began the transition from 10 people with collateral fire supervision responsibilities and 10 district collateral Fire Management Officers to five full-time Zone Fire Management Officers, with full-time Assistant Zone Fire Management Officers at key locations. Benefits of that change began to manifest itself during the fall season, as zones worked cooperatively with the focused leadership of full-time fire managers.

Fire Preparedness and Facilities

Maintain a cost effective level of preparedness in firefighting and prevention

- **Preparedness Resources**
 - USDA Forest Service will have a total of 15 firefighting personnel.
 - Department of the Interior will have a total of 6 firefighting personnel and 5 engines.
- **Facilities**
 - Department of the Interior will be providing funding for the Shenandoah North District cache engine storage and Great Dismal Swamp cache.

Rehabilitation and Restoration

Rehabilitate fire damaged wildlands and restore ecosystem

- Rehabilitation and Restoration program consists of
 1. Immediate actions to reduce threats to public safety, property and natural and cultural resources, and
 2. Long-term actions to help restore healthy ecosystems and replace infrastructure damaged by fire.
- DOI funding will cover ecological stabilization, reforestation (seeding, cultural protection invasive species, contour tree felling, monitoring);
- USDA Forest Service funding will be used to improve overall watershed condition and restoring severely burned forests and rangelands. Projects include reforestation, watershed restoration, road and trail rehabilitation, fish and wildlife habitat restoration, planting and seeding and preventing invasive plants.

Hazardous Fuel Reduction

Invest in projects to reduce fire risk with focused effort in wildland urban interface areas.

- Approximately 9,856 acres are planned for Hazardous Fuels treatment by Federal agencies, an estimated 6,787 acres will be treated in the Wildland Urban Interface
- An estimated \$626,000 will be spent on hazardous fuels treatment work.

- Forest Health Management funding is estimated at \$295,000.

Community Assistance

Work with communities to reduce the risks of catastrophic fire

- 23 rural/volunteer fire departments will receive assistance from DOI.
- State Fire Assistance (FS): Estimated funding - \$1,528,821.
- Volunteer Fire Assistance Program (FS): Estimated funding - \$194,831.
- Economic Action Program (FS): Estimated funding - \$22,285.

Accountability

Establish and maintain a high level of accountability including oversight reviews, progress tracking and performance monitoring

- DOI and Forest Service are developing a uniform set of performance measures necessary to assess program effectiveness these measures will be tracked through a common electronic database by the end of the FY02.
- DOI and Forest Service have developed a uniform process and timeline to identify and complete planning on fuels treatment projects.
- A DOI and Forest Service contracting review has been completed and actions will be initiated to increase the level of contracts for fuels hazard reduction work.

Department of the Interior	Department of the Interior	USDA Forest Service	State of Virginia
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